(b) if so, the response of his Ministry thereto, so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Krishnapatnam in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh has been identified as one of the sites for development of Ultra Mega Power Projects in the country.

Addition of power generation capacity

53. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set an ambitious target to add 19,000 MW in one year to achieve its aim of adding 44,000 MW to existing installed capacity of 1,25,000 MW by the end of Tenth Year Plan;

(b) if so, what will be the total power targets achieved in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) to what extent it will be more as compared to Ninth and Eighth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) 34024 MW is the present scheduled capacity addition for the 10th Plan. This involves commissioning of 19696 MW this year and about 3300 MW of this is under the best effort scenario.

(c) A capacity of 16422 MW and 19015 MW was added during VIII and IX Plans respectively.

Monitoring of Private Power Distributors

54. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has ben drawn to persisting problems in the power sector in Delhi after privatization of distribution of electricity in the State;

(b) whether Government have any mechanism to monitor the functioning of the private discome and the Power situation in the States where privatization has been done;

(c) whether the objective of privatization has been achieved in these States; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider revision of the privatization policy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has privatised distribution in July, 2002. For the period upto March 2007, the responsibility of bulk power procurement was given to TRANSCO, the State owned Transmission Company.

The overall power supply position in Delhi has improved over the years and the energy and peak shortage reduced from 1.9 per cent and 9.2 per cent in year 2002-03 to 1.5 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively in year 2005-06. However, there have been instances of increased shortages during certain periods of the year as was the case during April 2006 and early part of July 2006.

The privatized distribution companies would be responsible for bulk power procurement for supplying to their consumers from the year 2007-08.

Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, distribution of electricity is a licensed activity. The State Electricity Regulatory commissions grant licenses for distribution of electricity. Under Section 86(1) of the Act, SERCs have been entrusted the function of specifying and enforcing standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of services by licensees.

According to the asessment made by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), privatization in the NCT of Delhi has been helpful in the following ways:

* At the time of privatization, the Government of NCT of Delhi was giving as assistance about Rs. 1200 crore every year to the Delhi Vidyut Board This has since got substantially reduced to about Rs. 138 crores to TRANSCO in year 2005-06. Now the Government of NCT of Delhi in only spending on the capital expenditure plans of the Generating Companies and the Delhi TRANSCO Limited. This implies that additional funds are now available with the Government for other development schemes. The Government, however, has spent a nominal amount on providing subsidy to certain groups of consumers in accordance with Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003. For example, for 2005-06, the Government of NCT of Delhi spent about Rs. 91 crore for subsidising the power tarif for domestic and agricultural consumers.

* The Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) have come down from 50% in 2002 to about 35% (provisional) in March, 2006. The distribution companies have achieved the targets for loss reduction.

* Load shedding in million units have reduced from 558 million units in 2001-02 to about 176 million units in 2004-05.

* Distribution Transformer failure rate has reduced from 15% in 2002 to about 1.5% per annum in 2005.

* There have been cases where problems in metering and billing matters have been reported. In order to address the consumer complaints the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had prepared guidelines for appointment of Ombudsman and Consumer Grievances Redressal Forums which have since been set up and are functioning since August, 2004.

* Response time for attending to consumer complaints and for giving new connections have come down considerably.

* The available options for payment of electricity bills has increase manifold.

In the annual rating undertaken by the Ministry of Power through independent rating agencies ICRA and CRISIL, Delhi power sector has been rated 3rd best in the country in year 2006.

(d) Distribution of power falls in the domain of the States.

Implementation of large hydel power projects

55. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up shell companies to implement large hydel power projects of more than 100MW in an attempt to expedite capacity addition in power generation;

(b) if so, whether the shell companies would be required to prepare project reports, acquire land and get necessary clearance relating to environment; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision is likely to be taken and to what extent it would be helpful in improving power generation?